

Tuesday, March 31, 2009



Nevada Homeschool Network Legislative Alert

Dear Homeschool Parents and Friends of Homeschooling,

This has been a busy time for NHN Officers. We have been tracking bills submitted to the 2009 Nevada Legislative session. We are pleased to report that at this time none affect our Homeschool Freedom directly. However, there are bills that may have affect upon some in the homeschooling community.

We have listed the bills that we have reviewed in numerical order for easy reference. You can click on the bill number and it will take you to the page where the bill description/our position is listed below. We've also categorized the bills by importance/interest to homeschool families.

After the bills section we explain different ways you can make your opinion known on one or all of these bills. Thanks for staying engaged in the Legislative process.

Assembly Bills

[AB11](#) Millennium Scholarship
[AB155](#) Multicultural Education
[AB158](#) Millennium Scholarship
[AB162](#) Autism Health Ins. Coverage
[AB184](#) Gender Identity or Expression
[AB211](#) Local School Board Meetings
[AB212](#) Millennium Scholarship
[AB343](#) Pupils/Entertainment Industry
[AB351](#) Millennium Scholarship/Loans
[AB487](#) Pupils/Middle or Jr. High Schools
[AB489](#) Governance of Charter Schools
[AB505](#) Pupils in High Schools
[ACR2](#) Interim Study on Public Schools

Senate Bills

[SB77](#) Mentoring/Public High Schools
[SB81](#) Special Needs Scholarship
[SB283](#) Domestic Partnership Act
[SB286](#) Early Intervention Services
[SB292](#) Child's "Best Interests"
[SB317](#) Financial Literacy/Education
[SB326](#) Govern. of Public Education
[SB330](#) World-Class Education
[SB378](#) Early Childhood Education
[SB381](#) Immunizations Fee Coverage
[SB385](#) Govern. of Charter Schools

Bills in order of importance/interest to homeschoolers:

Children:

SB378 Requirements for Early Childhood Education (Comm. on Health & Educ.)

Requires the State Board of Education to develop a plan for early childhood education; requirements for prekindergarten programs and other matters. (Senate H&E)

Action Needed: Make your opinion known!

NHN opposes this bill. The compulsory attendance law covers 7-18 year olds. The state should not develop early childhood education programs; this should remain a function of the private sector and parents.

Upcoming Hearings

Senate Health and Education

Apr. 03, 2009 12:30 PM

[Agenda](#)

SB286 Early Intervention Services (Cegasvke)

Establishes early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities that are at risk for developmental delays, in accordance with federal regulations as funds are available.

NHN is neutral on this bill.

Bills affecting Child Protection Laws:

SB292 Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, & Custody Cases (Amodei) This bill requires and defines advocate or attorney appointed to represent “the best interests of the child” in *alleged* child abuse, neglect, or custody cases.

NHN opposes this bill and has requested Senator Amodei to withdraw the bill. Sections 35, 48, & 49 will require a judge to appoint a “best interest advocate or attorney” to a child whose parent(s) are alleged to have abused or neglected the child. With so many false accusations against legitimate homeschool parents this bill is greatly flawed.

Bills affecting the Millennium Scholarship:

AB351 Millennium Scholarships/Loans (Christensen)

Changes name from Millennium Scholarship to the Millennium Scholarship and Loan Program. Establishes criteria for loans and repayment. No interest loan if scholar remains in the state after graduation.

NHN supports this bill.

AB212 Millennium Scholarships (Munford, Pierce)

Restricts award of scholarship dollars to students who have been caught cheating 3 or more times while enrolled in public school.

NHN is neutral on this bill.

AB11 Millennium Scholarships (Settlemeier)

This bill would require all applicants to submit a “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) to prove citizenship.

NHN opposes this bill as over-burdensome, proof of citizenship can be required without submitting a loan application to the federal government.

AB158 Millennium Scholarships (Cobb)

This bill requires application within 2 years of high school graduation, restricts award to those with incomes less than \$100,000, amount of scholarship scaled based on income/need, changes minimum GPA of 3.0 to retain scholarship.

NHN opposes this bill based on the means and need testing since the scholarship is funded from the Tobacco Settlement, not tax-payer dollars and should be made equally available to all academically qualified students.

Bills affecting State Governance of Education:

SB326 Revises governing of Public Education (Cegasvke & Raggio)

Eliminates State Board of Education; restructures Dept of Ed; creates NV Charter School Institute for sponsorship of all charters to this, not SBOE, districts, etc.

Action Needed: Make your opinion known!

NHN supports and favors this bill over SB385.

SB385 Revises provisions governing Charter Schools (Comm. on Health & Educ.)

Creates NV Charter School Institute to sponsor and govern charter schools instead of SBOE. Does not repeal SBOE which continues oversight of public and private schools.

NHN supports this bill as far it goes, but favors SB326

Upcoming Hearings

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AB489 Revises provisions governing Charter Schools (Comm. on Education)

Creates new Charter Body for sponsorship. Eliminates State Board of Education sponsored charters. Creates the Nevada Charter School Institute would create regulatory control over charters, not Dept. of Ed., or SBOE.

NHN supports this bill.

Upcoming Hearings

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SB330 World Class Education NV (Horsford)

Revises provisions relating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; various changes to the Dept. of Education, the election/appointment of State Board of Education members, as well as changes to other counsels and commissions relating to public education.

Action Needed: Make your opinion known!

NHN opposes this bill due to the potential this bill has for controlling private schools and homeschools. Specifically:

- The preamble due to terminology that does not specify “public school pupils”,***
- Section 6 changes the name of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This title is established in the NV Constitution and therefore should not be changed.***
- Section 8 regarding the election/appointment of SBOE members.***
- Section 9, number 2 for vagueness.***

Upcoming Hearings

Senate Health and Education	Apr. 03, 2009	12:30 PM	Agenda
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**ACR2 Interim Study on the governance and oversight of public education.
*NHN is neutral on this bill.***

Bills affecting Public Education:

AB211 Meetings of boards of trustees of school districts (Munford)

Requires local school boards to carry out certain actions requested by the general public under certain circumstances.

NHN supports this bill.

AB343 Pupils in Entertainment Industry (Manendo)

This bill exempts students enrolled in public school who work in the entertainment industry from minimum number of attendance days if the course-work requirements have been completed.

NHN supports this bill as “choice” in meeting educational requirements.

AB505 Pupils in High School (Repeals three 392 exemptions) (Comm. on Education)

Sets benchmarks for high school students for ease of transition into workplace; Instruction in fiscal responsibility; peer mentoring for transition from jr high to high school; time during school day to remedy deficient credits in time to graduate or advance; ability to report unlawful activity secretly. Sect 16 repeals old NRS #s NRS 392.090, 392.100 and 392.110.

NHN opposes Section 16 of this bill as it limits individual options; takes no position on other portions of this bill.

AB487 Pupils in Middle School/Jr. High School (Comm. on Educ.)

Middle School students-Academic Plan for first year in middle school, separation of initially enrolled students from older students where practicable, peer & adult mentoring in middle school.

NHN supports this bill. (After reviewing the bill in more detail we changed our position)

SB317 Financial Literacy in Public High Schools (Copening, Parks, Woodhouse...)

This bill requires that “financial literacy” be taught in public high school.

NHN opposes this bill because it usurps local control of education.

AB155 Multicultural Education Requirements

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a program of multicultural instruction and for the local school district to ensure the program is provided to students in grades 2-12. The bill also requires that teachers submit proof of completion of a course in Multiculturalism.

NHN opposes this bill due to the fiscal implications of the bill on an already over-burdened system as well as on Constitutional grounds.

SB77 Peer mentoring for Public High School Students (Comm. on Health & Educ)

Authorizes local boards of trustees to establish “teen mentoring” programs in public high schools. Bill passed the full Senate on 3/24/09.

NHN is neutral on this bill.

Votes

<u>Senate Final</u>	Mar.	Yea	Nay	Excused	Not Voting	Absent
<u>Passage</u>	24	21,	0,	0,	0,	0

Bills affecting special needs students:

SB81 Special Needs Scholarship (Cegasvke)

Establishes a special needs scholarship program for certain pupils with disabilities to apply for public funds to attend eligible private schools.

NHN supports this bill.

Bills affecting the General Public:

AB184 Gender Identity or Expression in the Work Place (Aizley, Segerblom, Ohrenschall...Parks)

Employers may not discriminate against employees with respect to “gender identity or expression”.

Action Needed: Make your opinion known

NHN opposes this bill.

SB283 The Nevada Domestic Partnership Act (Parks, Coffin)

Enacts legislation equating “domestic partnerships” with marriage in Nevada.

Action Needed: Make your opinion known

NHN opposes this bill.

AB162 Autism/health insurance & health care plans (Orenschall, Buckley...)

Requires certain policies of health insurance and health care plans to provide coverage for screening and treatment of Autism. Note: this bill contains an unfunded mandate.

NHN is neutral on this bill. However, NHN recognizes and is sympathetic to the difficulty that parents have in choosing to homeschool their autistic children, often needing the services a public school offers since their insurance doesn't cover needed therapies for the student's progress.

SB381 Immunizations (Comm on Health & Education)

Requires Medicaid, self-insurance plans, and health insurance policies to cover any immunizations recommended by the State Board of Health or the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for children under age 18. Calls for full coverage without payment of deductibles, co-pays or co-insurance of said immunizations.

NHN is neutral on this bill.

Upcoming Hearings

Senate Health and Education

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The Nevada Legislature's web site has a great feature where you can "Voice Your Opinion" about a bill. If you go to the home page at www.leg.state.nv.us and look at the right hand side of the page, there is an option (7th on the list) entitled "Share your Opinion on Legislative Bills." When you click on this option, you will be brought to a page on which you can select a bill and state your position for or against and write some comments, <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/opinions/Poll/?CFID=10891&CFTOKEN=77703831>.

Please take a moment to submit your opinions regarding any or all of the bills we've brought to your attention. Don't hesitate to write a short comment. Contact information required to submit an opinion will be kept confidential by the Legislative Counsel Bureau but will allow legislators to know who is writing to them from their district. If you look at the top of the opinion submission page, you can access reports about bills. Here are reports that are available:

- [Opinions by Popularity \(Top 50\)](#)
- [Opinions by Bill](#)
- [Opinions by Zip Code](#)
- [Opinions by Zip Code by Bill](#)
- [Opinions by City](#)
- [Opinions by City by Bill](#)
- [Opinions by Senate District](#)
- [Opinions by Senate District by Bill](#)
- [Opinions by Assembly District](#)
- [Opinions by Assembly District by Bill](#)

Also, individual comments (without identifying info) can be viewed. **Using this method notifies the entire Assembly and Senate of your opinion on a bill.**

You can also submit your opinion directly to Committee members for a specific bill. This will help stop/change/improve a bill before it goes to the floor. At the top of each bill (click the bill number above to link directly to the bill), just after the date, the committee that the bill has been referred to is listed. For standing committee assignments go to:

Assembly: http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/committees/A_Committees/index.cfm

Senate: http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/committees/S_Committees/index.cfm

Click on the name of the committee and you'll get a list of all the committee members.

Then on the Legislature home page go to Session Info...2009 Session...Legislator

Information. Email addresses and phone numbers are listed here by Senate and

Assembly, <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Legislators/>. At the bottom of this letter we've listed standing committee members and their email address for bills listed above.

This is the best method to use to voice your personal concerns about a particular bill being heard by that committee.

Staying informed and active in the Legislative process protects LIBERTY FOR ALL.

NHN Officers

Frank Schnorbus, Chair
Elissa Wahl, Secretary
Barbara Dragon, Treasurer
Carl Lucus, Member

Laura Siegal, Member
Kelley Radow, Member
Missy Pique, Member

2009 Nevada Legislature Standing Committees
(committees & contacts will be added as needed)

Senate Health & Education Committee members w/ email contact:

Valerie Wiener - Chair vwiener@sen.state.nv.us
Joyce Woodhouse - Vice Chair jwoodhouse@sen.state.nv.us
Steven A. Horsford shorsford@sen.state.nv.us
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Assembly Education Committee members w/ email contacts:

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